

SARA JACOBS  
51ST DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

1314 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2040

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
9665 CHESAPEAKE DRIVE, SUITE 455  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(619) 280-5353



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0605

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS,  
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for UCSD's Wildfire Technology Commons in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of California, San Diego, located at 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093. The funding would be used to bring resources together into a technology commons that can be accessed and used by wildfire technology researchers and innovators, using data and AI as tools for next-generation fire models.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because wildfires are hugely costly to taxpayers. The CBO estimates that from 2016-2020, fire suppression activities on federal land averaged \$2.5 billion annually. The federal government obligated an additional \$5 billion annually in that same period for disaster assistance to state and local governments related to wildfire damage. In 2020, the worst fire season yet, fires swept across 10 million acres in California, Oregon, and Washington, killing dozens, destroying 10,000 structures, and causing \$16 billion in property damage. Tens of thousands of firefighters risked their lives to fight the fires at a cost of \$3.4 billion. Avoiding future wildfire disasters is a time-critical problem that requires practical solutions that build upon science and technology advances to understand fire behavior in our changing climate.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sara Jacobs', enclosed within a circular blue ink scribble.

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress